

Dedication of “William G. Carpenter Highway”



[*Watch Video Here*](#)

Last week, I was honored to participate in the unveiling and dedication of a sign marking the newly renamed portion of Route 72 in Lebanon County as the “William G. Carpenter Highway.” Bill Carpenter is a decorated U.S. Army veteran who served with valor in Vietnam and returned home to a life of public service here as a 16-year member of Cornwall Borough Council and as a Lebanon County commissioner for 24 years. For Bill’s exemplary service to his country, his county and community, I sponsored legislation to name a portion of Route 72 in his honor. At the ceremony, Bill’s wife, Denyse, joined me in unveiling the new road sign bearing her husband’s name. While it is extremely rare for a road, bridge or other landmark to be named for an individual who is still living, Carpenter said he is humbled and grateful for the honor and for having the opportunity to enjoy the experience with his family. To watch excerpts from the ceremony, click the video box above.

Election Integrity Bills Earn Committee Approval

The House State Government Committee approved three election-related bills this week that aim to better secure ballots, properly maintain voter registration lists and ensure equality for all candidates in General Elections.

- [House Bill 34](#) would establish guidelines for the transportation of ballots to ensure election ballots are not misplaced, tampered with, over/under counted or delayed in shipping. It would require ballots to be transported in sealed containers with numbered plastic tags and a Bill of Lading, essentially a manifest and receipt, with each shipment.
- [House Bill 143](#) would require the departments of Health and State to work together to streamline the process of removing deceased voters from the rolls. Specifically, it would mandate a monthly report of the names of deceased individuals to be removed from the voter database.
- [House Bill 2484](#) would extend the requirements for filing a statement of financial interests to all candidates, including write-in candidates who advanced in primary elections or who appear on the ballot in a General Election.



All the bills now go to the full House for consideration.

House Votes to Hold Philadelphia DA in Contempt

In a bipartisan vote of 162-38, the state House has approved a resolution holding Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner in contempt for refusing to comply with a subpoena issued by the House Select Committee on Restoring Law and Order. The Select Committee was created earlier this summer to investigate, review and make legislative findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives regarding the rising rates of crime in the City of Philadelphia; the city's use of public funds intended for law enforcement and prosecuting crime; the enforcement of crime victim rights in Philadelphia; and the use of public funds for the purpose of benefitting the city's crime victims. The resolution authorizes the chairman to subpoena information



relevant to the committee's work. [Learn more here.](#)

March for Life Monday in Harrisburg



The second annual Pennsylvania March for Life will be held this Monday, Sept. 19, at the [state Capitol in Harrisburg](#). It is a great opportunity for people from across the Commonwealth to come together and speak up for the rights of the unborn. The march kicks off at noon but is preceded by a morning mass at 9:30 a.m. and a rally at 11 a.m. Attendees will hear from several pro-life leaders. A full list of speakers and schedule of events [is available here.](#)

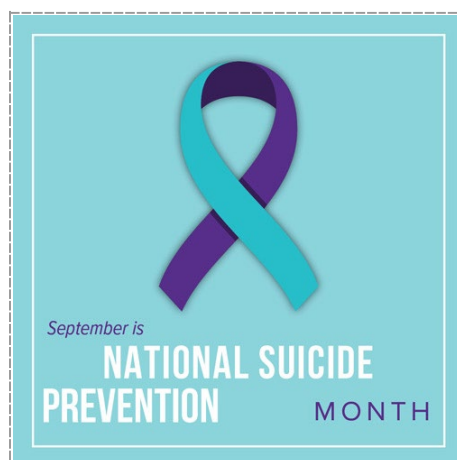
PA Supreme Court Rule Change Will Have Grave Impact on Health Care, Patient Access

Health care leaders are warning lawmakers about a threat to the state's health care system and the patients who rely on it as the Pennsylvania Supreme Court looks to reverse a 2003 rule requiring that medical malpractice cases be brought in the county in which the action occurred. Prior to the rule being instituted, trial lawyers often sought to bring cases in Philadelphia where jury awards tended to be higher. Referred to as "venue shopping," this practice resulted in higher medical malpractice insurance rates, leading many doctors to leave the state, retire early or limit their scope of practice. It also inhibited the state's ability to recruit new physicians. At a House Committee hearing this week, health industry leaders expressed deep concern with reversing the rule. They said it would hurt patients' ability to access the care they needed in a timely manner. To watch the hearing or review written testimony, [click here](#).



September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Approximately 1.2 million adults attempt suicide annually in the United States. In 2020, the most recent year that data is available, approximately 1,700 people died by suicide in Pennsylvania. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is a time to remember and honor those lost to suicide, and support those who have attempted suicide and are dealing with mental health challenges and crisis every day. **It is important to remember help is available.** This summer, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline officially launched nationwide, streamlining call and text access to the national lifeline that provides no-cost crisis response support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In addition to 988, many other resources also remain available to Pennsylvanians in



need of support, including:

- Crisis Text Line: Text “PA” to 741-741
- Veteran Crisis Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990
- Get Help Now Hotline (for substance use disorders): 1-800-662-4357
- Pennsylvania Sexual Assault Helpline: 1-888-772-7227 or pcar.org/help-in-pa
- National Domestic Violence Helpline: 1-800-799-7233 or PCADV.org

Learn more about Prevent Suicide PA’s work around Pennsylvania at preventsuicidepa.org.

Bill Aims to Protect Water Quality, Save Taxpayer Dollars

Citing the unnecessary financial burden being placed on many of the state’s municipalities as a result of outdated water quality data, the House approved legislation this week that would require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to conduct water quality testing within communities subject to the federal Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) program. Created nearly 20 years ago, MS4 targets water resources in watersheds that do not go through a treatment system and have higher than acceptable pollutant levels. However, DEP has



failed to update its data which is placing a significant financial burden on some communities that may, in fact, have cleaner water than what the data reflects. [House Bill 2331](#) would require DEP to either update its own data or allow municipalities to submit their own data generated by other state agencies. The new data could result in communities receiving a waiver from MS4 guidelines or changes to its pollutant reduction plan. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Farm to School Grant Program Open

Applications are now being accepted for the Pennsylvania Farm to School Grant Program. Created by the Legislature in 2019, the grant program aims to educate prekindergartners through eighth graders and their families about the importance of choosing healthy, locally produced foods and increase awareness of agriculture in the Commonwealth. Eligible applicants include a school district, public school, charter school, private school or center with prekindergarten classes, kindergarten classes, elementary classes or middle school classes through the eighth grade that participates in a Federal Child Nutrition Program. The maximum grant award is \$15,000. For additional information or to submit an application, [click here](#). The deadline to apply is Oct. 14.



Archives Internship Available at PA Capitol

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives Archives Internship Program is currently accepting applications for the spring 2023 session. The 13-week program is based in [Pennsylvania's Capitol Building](#) in Harrisburg, where interns work alongside professional archivists to process collections, craft finding aids, create exhibits and work with digital collections. This internship provides a great opportunity for students interested in public history to gain valuable real-world experience.



Qualified applicants must:

- Be undergraduate second semester juniors, seniors, and graduate students.
- Be enrolled in a Pennsylvania college/university or be a Pennsylvania resident enrolled in an out-of-state institution.
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Complete an application and submit a resume, official college transcripts and two letters of recommendation.

For more information, [click here](#). Applications are due by Nov. 1.

PennDOT Phases in Newly Designed Driver Licenses, ID Cards

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced this week it is updating the design and enhancing security features of its driver licenses and identification cards. All driver license and photo centers will transition to the new products by mid-November and are expected to complete the phase-in over the next four-years. This will enable license and ID card holders to continue using their existing cards until they are up for renewal. The new cards aim to prevent fraud including counterfeiting and alteration. Both standard and REAL ID compliant products will use the new design and security features. REAL ID is optional in Pennsylvania; however, beginning May 3, 2023, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID. More information about REAL ID [is available here](#). For 24-hour access to a variety of PennDOT services, [click here](#).

